



Showing resilience

Our current academy theme is all about showing resilience. This week in assembly pupils were introduced to the idea that it's a good thing to fail. This might sound strange, but it's all about what you do after failure that will make the difference and we want our pupils to show resilience and learn from their mistakes.

Next week we will continue our theme of resilience and this will feature in two forthcoming events. The first is World Teachers Day which takes place on Monday 5th October. We will be recognizing how hard our teaching (and all other) staff work and how each one of them has to show resilience in their work. On Thursday 8th October we are having a special visitor to the academy, Sally Bouwman, from an organization called 'Drive for Literacy'. She will lead an assembly on dyslexia as next week is Dyslexia Awareness Week. Again, people who have dyslexia have to show resilience and there are many examples of well known people who have overcome their difficulties with dyslexia.

Please take the opportunity to discuss with your child what they have learned about resilience (including how to spell the word!) and how they can work to increase their resilience.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to support their children to go on our two online tutorial packages – Lexia and Maths Whizz, as much as possible at home. Access details are in the parent handbook or ask your child's teacher.



Wendy Baxter
Principal

Uniform update

Whilst most parents and pupils have been happy with the new academy uniform, we have had some feedback about allowing girls to wear both a pinafore dress/skirt and trousers. We like to be responsive to parent concerns and therefore have discussed this at our first local governing body meeting held this week. As a result we have now amended our uniform policy and can confirm the following:

- Girls may wear both a pinafore dress/skirt and trousers
- Skirts/pinafores need to be no longer than just above the knee
- Whilst trousers are allowed, leggings are not
- Girls who wish to wear a hijab during PE should wear a sports hijab for safety and hygiene reasons. Other head coverings will not be allowed in PE
- If a child is not in correct uniform then parents may be contacted and asked to bring in the correct uniform for them to change into



Keeping us updated

If you change address or any of your contact details require updating, please let us know. If you have a pupil living with you and you are not the parents, please also let us know this.

Mrs Judith Pettersen Chair of Governors



Mrs Pettersen joined Ark Chamberlain Primary Academy as chair of governors earlier this year. Mrs Pettersen has previously worked as the Director of Children's Services and Lifelong Learning in the London Borough of Hounslow but moved into the Birmingham area three years ago. She has particular expertise in special educational needs and will also act as the link governor for this area.

Mrs Pettersen said "I am delighted to be joining the academy as the new chair of governors and it will be both a pleasure and an honour to serve the local community in this role."

Parent Workshops

We are really pleased to be holding a number of parental workshops over the coming months. These are FREE and all parents are welcome. All you need to do to take part is to complete and return the letter that you will receive about each workshop. Forthcoming workshops include a variety of subjects such as ICT, English language, cooking, managing your child's eczema and getting the most from Lexia and Maths Whizz

Newsletter 2nd Oct 2015

Safeguarding

"Everybody's business"

Next Friday (9th Oct) our staff will be undertaking a training session to ensure that they understand the common issues related to radicalization and extremism and are able to spot the early signs of this happening. This will ensure that all our staff are able to support our pupils appropriately and that our pupils are able to have informed debates on this issue.

Dyslexia Awareness

Dyslexia Awareness Week runs from 5th-11th October 2015 and is an annual event that aims to not only raise awareness of dyslexia but also showcase the amazing achievements that people with dyslexia have made.

Most people know that dyslexia is a broad term for disorders that involve difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters and other symbols, but were you aware that 10% of the British population are dyslexic?

In fact, according to the British Dyslexia Association, 4% are classified as severely dyslexic but despite the statistics being so high, many people still do not fully understand how to support people with it, which is where Dyslexia Awareness Week comes in.

At Ark Chamberlain, we are working closely with 'Drive for literacy', a programme that supports teachers to make sure their classrooms and teaching are dyslexia friendly. A specialist dyslexia teacher will be in school on Thursday 8th October to talk to children about dyslexia and we will be organising staff training and individual support over the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact our SENDco, Mr Coyne, for further information. You can also have a look on the 'Drive for literacy' website (www.driveforliteracy.co.uk).

Mr D Coyne

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Co-ordinator